

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,

FILED

Case No. 19RA-CR00001

vs.
STEVEN DALE BELL
SSN: XXX-XX-6910

OCN: FB0015171

JAN - 2 2019
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
CIRCUIT CLERK
RANDOLPH COUNTY, MO

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

Charge Code Number: 575.100-001Y20175099.

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Randolph, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant in violation of Section 575.100, RSMo, committed the class D felony of tampering with physical evidence, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about December 28, 2018, in the County of Randolph, State of Missouri, the defendant destroyed a vehicle and/or clothing with the purpose to impair its availability in a homicide investigation of the deaths of Darren Tharp and Shane Hare, an official investigation, and thereby impaired and obstructed the prosecution of Aaron Bloss for the crime of murder in the second degree, a felony.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement(s) of facts, made a part hereof and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

Stephanie Lundford
Stephanie Lundford, #41825
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Randolph County, State of Missouri

FILED

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

EVENT#: 1812-1043

JAN - 2 2019

(X) IN CUSTODY DATE OF ARREST 01/01/2019 TIME OF ARREST 0400
 () UNDER INVESTIGATION

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
 CIRCUIT CLERK
 RANDOLPH COUNTY MO

DEFENDANT NAME Bell, Steven Dale
 DATE OF BIRTH: 03/15/1996 AGE: 22 RACE: White SEX: Male SSN: 888888888-6910
 OCN: FB001571
 ADDRESS 822 Vincil Street, Moberly, MO 65270

I, the undersigned, upon my oath and under the penalties of perjury, state as follows: I am a law enforcement officer employed by the Moberly, Missouri, Police Department. I have probable cause to believe that the defendant, having the above-mentioned date of birth and social security number, if any, committed one or more criminal offense(s). The facts supporting this belief occurred on or about 12/29/2018 in the City of Moberly, Randolph County, Missouri, as follows:

On Saturday, December 29, 2018, at 1124 hours, two deceased persons were located in a vehicle parked in the parking lot between the businesses of Bud's Place and West side Inn in the 600 block of Concannon St in Moberly, MO. The two persons appeared to have died from gunshot wounds. The two persons were identified as Darren Tharp and Shane Hare. Upon viewing surveillance video from surrounding businesses, it was learned Tharp's vehicle was parked facing southbound in between Bud's Place, 604 Concannon Street, and West Side Inn, 618 Concannon Street at approximately 0429 hours on Friday, December 28, 2018.

At approximately 0440 hours, two subjects were observed walking eastbound from behind West Side Inn, towards Tharp's vehicle. One subject was observed to be of a smaller stature, while the other subject appeared to be of a larger stature. The subjects were further observed approaching Tharp's vehicle, at which time one subject approached from the driver's side while the other subject approached from the passenger side. At approximately 0442 hours, I observed both subjects run from the vehicle westbound behind West Side Inn.

While conducting the investigation, officers were contacted by Randolph County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sgt Ron Dulany who advised on 12/28/18 he investigated a vehicle fire in rural Randolph County. The vehicle was a red Ford F150 registered to R. P. [REDACTED]. Sgt Dulany advised the fire appeared to have been intentionally set. Sgt Dulany advised during the course of his investigation it was learned R. P. [REDACTED]'s step-son, Aaron Bloss, is known to drive the vehicle. Let it be known, this vehicle fire was reported approximately 4.5 hours after the homicide.

On 12/30/18, Detectives with the Moberly Police Department interviewed L. B. [REDACTED], the estranged wife of Aaron Bloss, at the Moberly Police station. L. B. [REDACTED] advised on 12/27/18, her husband, Aaron Bloss, and a subject she identified as Chris Esry were at her house in Moberly. L. B. [REDACTED] advised while A. Bloss and C. Esry were in her house she observed them loading handguns. L. B. [REDACTED] stated they advised her they were going to Columbia to commit a burglary. L. B. [REDACTED] stated A. Bloss's gun was silver with a black handgrip and C. Esry's was completely black. L. B. [REDACTED] stated they left in "R. P. [REDACTED]'s truck" which was a truck belonging to A. Bloss's stepfather, R. P. [REDACTED]. L. B. [REDACTED] stated on 12/28/18, she received a message from A. Bloss in which he stated he was going to prison for something he didn't do.

On 01/01/19, Detectives with the Moberly Police Department made contact with Aaron Bloss in an interview room at the Moberly Police station. During a post-Miranda interrogation, A. Bloss advised at approximately 0330 hours on 12/28/18, he was contacted by Chris Esry, who advised he needed A. Bloss to pick him. A. Bloss advised he picked up C. Esry at an unknown address on Concannon St. A. Bloss stated Travis Koenig was with him when he picked up C. Esry. A. Bloss

stated when he made contact with C Esry, C Esry advised he was meeting with people at Bud's Place who he was going to steal drugs from. A Bloss stated C Esry told him he had to help with the robbery. A Bloss stated he told C Esry he was not going and C Esry pointed a gun at him. A Bloss stated while they were traveling to Bud's Place, C Esry told A Bloss if he messed anything up C Esry would kill his whole family. A Bloss stated he parked the truck he was driving at the corner of Franklin St and Hagood St. A Bloss stated C Esry told him (A Bloss) to come with him while T Koenig waited in the truck. A Bloss stated they walked to the car which was parked near Bud's Place. A Bloss stated C Esry got in the back driver's side seat while he got in the back passenger's side seat. A Bloss stated C Esry threatened the occupants of the vehicle by pointing a gun at them and demanding "the dope". A Bloss identified "dope" as methamphetamine.

A Bloss stated the subject in the front passenger's seat passed a bag of methamphetamine back to A Bloss. A Bloss stated he was getting out of the vehicle when he heard a gunshot. A Bloss stated he began running away and heard a second shot. A Bloss stated he ran back to the truck. A Bloss stated C Esry also ran back to the truck. A Bloss stated they all left the area in the truck. A. Bloss stated Koenig had agreed to be the "get-away" driver and had knowledge they were attempting to commit a robbery.

A Bloss stated he had never seen the subjects in the vehicle before. A Bloss stated C Esry told him the subjects would "be an easy pick because they're lame". A Bloss stated C Esry referred to someone he was going to steal drugs from as a "pick".

Let it be known, after viewing the surveillance video mentioned above, I observed A. Bloss and Esry to appear to be similar in stature to the subjects on the video.

A Bloss stated he burned the clothes (leather coat and hooded sweatshirt) he was wearing at the time the crime was committed. A Bloss stated he was only going to throw the clothes away however Steven Bell encouraged him to burn the clothes and told him he knew of place they could do it. A Bloss stated they went to 1330 Quinn St where the clothes were burned in a burn barrel in the backyard. A Bloss stated on Saturday 10/29/18, he received a phone call from C Esry and T Koenig. A Bloss stated they told him to get rid of the vehicle with the bodies in it. A Bloss stated S Bell told A Bloss he (S Bell) would get rid of the vehicle and bodies for him by setting it on fire. A Bloss stated S Bell was trying to get a trailer to haul the car and bodies out of city limits when they observed police officers discovered the bodies.

In an interview with Steven Bell on 01/01/2019, he stated on Friday, December 28, 2018 he and Aaron Bloss drove back to Tharpe's vehicle in the parking lot of Bud's Place. Bell stated Bloss told him to get into Tharpe's vehicle and look for Bloss's phone. Bell stated Tharpe's vehicle doors were unlocked so he opened the doors and looked around the vehicle for Bloss's phone. Bell stated he saw both Tharpe and Hare in the front of the vehicle and observed they had been shot and were dead. Bell stated he looked for Bloss's phone inside the vehicle but did not find it so they left in Bloss's Ford Expedition. Bell stated Bloss told him they were going to have to find a way to get rid of Tharpe's vehicle and the bodies. Bell stated Bloss told him to either blow up the vehicle or set it on fire. Bell stated he and Bloss drove around the area looking for propane tanks but didn't find any.

An autopsy was performed on Tharp and Hare, at which time it was learned both subjects sustained a single gunshot wound to the head. The driver of the vehicle, Tharp, sustained a single gunshot wound to the back side of the head, which is consistent with A. Bloss' account of C. Esry being behind Tharp when the shot was fired. While processing the scene, Hare was located crouched in the front passenger seat floor board, facing towards the driver's side of the

vehicle, and was observed to have a gunshot to his left eye.

In the event the facts constituting a crime or crimes are misdemeanors only, the following facts provide reasonable grounds for the Court to issue a warrant in lieu of summons:

- Defendant will not appear because
- Defendant poses a danger to the victim or the community/other person because

I have read all of my offense reports, if any, which may be attached to this Probable Cause Statement. Those reports, if any, are hereby made a part of this Probable Cause Statement as if herein stated verbatim. The facts stated in this Probable Cause Statement are true, according to my best information, knowledge, and belief.

FALSE STATEMENTS MADE HEREIN ARE PUNISHABLE BY MISSOURI LAW

Submitted by: /s/ N. A. Hopson #250

Approved by: /s/ Sgt B Calvert #220